

Claim 1 (Cancelled)

2. (Previously Presented) A method for producing a solid sustained-release microsphere preparation, which comprises freeze-drying a sustained-release microsphere preparation in a freeze-drying container of which the inner face is partially or wholly coated with a water-repelling base material, and the coated inner face is further partially or wholly coated with an ice layer.
3. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim ~~1~~ or 2 wherein the inner face is the bottom face alone.
4. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim ~~1~~ or 2 wherein the freeze-drying container is a tray.
5. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim ~~1~~ or 2 wherein the ice layer has a thickness of about 0.01mm to about 30 mm.
6. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim ~~1~~ or 2 wherein the water-repelling base material is ethylene tetrafluoride resin, ethylene trifluoride resin, ethylene difluoride resin, vinylidene fluoride resin, propylene hexafluoride-ethylene tetrafluoride copolymer resin, modified fluorine resin, ethylene tetrafluoride-perfluoroalkoxyethylene copolymer resin, or ethylene tetrafluoride-ethylene copolymer resin.

Claim 7 (Cancelled)

8. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim ~~1- θ~~ 2 wherein sublimation is at 0°C or below.

Claim 9 (Cancelled)

10. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 2 wherein said microsphere is a microcapsule.

Claims 11-13 (Cancelled)

14. (Previously Presented) A method for producing a sustained-release preparation comprising:
- freezing water in a freeze-drying container having an inner face, wherein said inner face is wholly or partially coated with a water-repelling base material, to form an ice layer which wholly or partially coats said water-repelling base material;
 - adding a sustained-release preparation suspension to said ice layer;
 - freezing said sustained-release preparation suspension over said ice layer to form a sustained-release preparation layer;
 - sublimating water from said ice layer and said sustained-release preparation layer;
 - and then,
 - recovering a sustained-release preparation from said freeze-drying container.

Claim 15 (Cancelled)

16. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 14 wherein said preparation is a microsphere.

Claim 17 (Cancelled)

18. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 16 wherein said microsphere is a microcapsule.
19. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 14 wherein the water-repelling base material is ethylene tetrafluoride resin, ethylene trifluoride resin, ethylene difluoride resin, vinylidene fluoride resin, propylene hexafluoride-ethylene tetrafluoride copolymer resin, modified fluorine resin, ethylene tetrafluoride-perfluoroalkoxyethylene copolymer resin, or ethylene tetrafluoride-ethylene copolymer resin.
20. (Previously Presented) A method for producing a sustained-release preparation comprising:
- adding a sustained-release microsphere preparation suspension to a freeze-drying container having an inner face, wherein said inner face is wholly or partially coated with a water-repelling base material;
 - freezing said sustained-release microsphere preparation suspension to form a sustained-release preparation layer;
 - sublimating water from said sustained-release preparation layer; and then,
 - recovering a sustained-release preparation from said freeze-drying container.

21. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 20 wherein said microsphere is a microcapsule.

22. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 20 wherein said water-repelling base material is ethylene tetrafluoride resin, ethylene trifluoride resin, ethylene difluoride resin, vinylidene fluoride resin, propylene hexafluoride-ethylene tetrafluoride copolymer resin, modified fluorine resin, ethylene tetrafluoride-perfluoroalkoxyethylene copolymer resin, or ethylene tetrafluoride-ethylene copolymer resin.

23. (New) A method for producing a solid sustained-release preparation, which comprises freeze-drying a sustained-release microcapsule preparation of leuporelin acetate in a freeze-drying container of which the inner face is partially or wholly coated with an ice layer or water-repelling base material.

24. (New) A method for producing a sustained-release preparation comprising:

freezing water in a freeze-drying container having an inner face to form an ice layer which wholly or partially coats said inner face of said freeze-drying container;

adding a sustained-release microcapsule preparation suspension of leuporelin acetate to said ice layer;

freezing said sustained-release microcapsule preparation suspension over said ice layer to form a sustained-release preparation layer;

sublimating water from said ice layer and said sustained-release preparation layer;

and then,

recovering a sustained-release preparation from said freeze-drying container.